

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CITIZENS OF SPRINGFIELD

Passage of the Bond Measure to Repair our Streets

On November 6, 2018, the citizens of Springfield voted to embrace the future. Many of our citizens are financially stressed. Many of our citizens remain bitter about the PERS situation. Many of our citizens doubt that positive change can happen...

AND YET . . . **Hope won!**

Our citizens understood that in order to thrive, we must attract new business investment. Business owners look for communities where citizens care enough to invest in the maintenance of their city resources including our roads and streets. If local citizens won't invest in their city, why should outsiders take that chance? If business owners face the prospect of their employees' disappearing into pot holes on their way to work, these business folks might opt to locate in a different city. We currently have a road repair bill that is nearly \$40 million. As astronomically high as that may seem, that figure is dwarfed by the future cost of replacing these roads and that expense will be borne by our children and grandchildren.

This is the first chapter in the story of the revitalization of Springfield. We now have the opportunity to create the city of the future: a future that incorporates the modernity of tomorrow but maintains the small-town friendliness, collaborate problem-solving, and the can-do spirit that has always been Springfield.

This bond measure was our only current means to live up to our responsibility and the citizens of Springfield rose to the challenge.

THANK YOU, SPRINGFIELD!

Carolyn J. Miller
Director

MEETING CALENDAR

JANUARY 3 – COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The Board of County Commissioners recently received a report recommending the construction of a new Courthouse on the site of the former Eugene City Hall. The \$252 million project will be funded by a mix of resources. County staff will discuss the proposal – why a new Courthouse is needed, and how much of the cost will be borne by local taxpayers

JANUARY 17 – STATE TAXES: WHAT WENT WRONG

City Clubs across the state are joining together for this program on the unusual, and rather dysfunctional system Oregon uses for raising revenue. Retired Representatives Vickie Berger, Phil Barnhart and Dave Hunt *(Continued on page 5)*

PUBLIC CALENDAR

All items are tentative and subject to change. Where agenda information is available, it is included. Many agencies publish their agendas after the newsletter is released. Click on the link following the agency to be taken to their agenda page for most current information.

SPRINGFIELD CITY COUNCIL

January 7, 2019

Work Session – 6:00 p.m.

New Library Facility Report

Small Wireless Facilities

Regular Session – 7:00 p.m.

PH Small Wireless Facilities (Emergency)

PH Metro Plan Amendment and Zone change

January 14, 2019 – Work Session 5:30 p.m.

TSP Implementation Update

Property Tax exemption for Housing Diversity
Board and commission interviews

January 22, 2019

Work Session – 6:00 p.m.

Board Interviews

Regular Session – 7:00 p.m.

Board/Comm. Appointments

(Continued on page 5)

MEETINGS

Election fairness is a common topic of current discussion. Recently, Lane County voters rejected a ballot measure which would have changed the way some elections in Lane county are conducted. The national press is filled with stories about voter disenfranchisement, vote suppression, and gerrymandering. With that as background, on December 6 the League of Women Voters presented its study of how to make elections fairer by eliminating gerrymandering and supporting the goal that each person's vote gets equal weight.

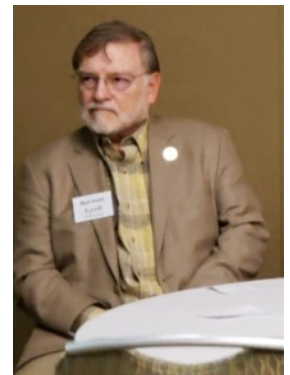
The League's proposal would create an independent commission to conduct reapportionment. The full details are beyond the scope of a sort article, but in general the follow the concepts now in use in California, which is one of two states with an independent commission.

The League is moving ahead to attempt to persuade the Legislature to recommend adoption of a proposed constitutional amendment during the 2019 session. Should that not succeed, they will be exploring the option of placing an amendment on the ballot through the initiative process. Reapportionment will occur in 2021, after the results of the 2020 Census are released.

Candalynn Johnson, Director of the League's Redistricting Matters program, and Norman Turrell, Statewide President of the League, both laid out the history of how legislative districts are apportioned and a plan to amend the Constitution to remove some large part of the political aspects of reapportionment. The League's proposal would create an independent omission to conduct reapportionment. The full details are beyond the scope of a short article, but in general they follow the concepts now in use in California, which is one of two states with an independent commission.

The League is moving ahead to attempt to persuade the Legislature to recommend adoption of a proposed constitutional amendment during the upcoming legislative session. Should that not succeed, they will be exploring the option of placing an amendment on the ballot through the initiative process. Reapportionment will to occur during 2021, after the results of the 2020 census are released in the Spring of 2021

Like 38 states, Oregon's process for setting legislative districts is vested in the State Legislative Assembly, by Article IV, Section 6 of the State constitution, and statues enacted pursuant to that. The Legislature is directed to craft a plan for reapportionment and, usually, it is challenged, and the matter is referred to the State Supreme Court. The court may approve the plan, make changes, or send it back to the legislature. There are time limits on legislative action with respect to State legislative districts, but no specific limits on the apportionment of federal Congressional districts. If the Legislature does not act in a timely way, the Secretary of State draws a reapportionment map, which is likewise subject to review of the Supreme court.



There are both federal and state criteria limiting the reapportionment process. Under federal law all districts must have equal population. Oregon goes beyond that requirement to require that differences be less than one percent. Districts must be compact and contiguous and under federal law, "minority" populations are entitled to have their own district if possible.

Under Oregon law, the compact and contiguous requirement is further refined by requiring that districts respect geographic barriers, and local political boundaries. The must also maintain respect for communities of interest and have transportation connectivity.



(Continued on page 4)

Minutes
Board of Directors
Springfield City Club
November 6, 2018 – LRAPA offices

Present:

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Merlyn Hough | Kristin Denmark | Joe Leahy | Bob Fondren |
| Len Goodwin | Terry Beyer | Callie Barry Elliott | Carolyn Miller |
| Nick Nelson | | | |

Absent: Mackenzie Karp; Therese Lang

Guests:

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m.

On a motion by Len, seconded by Joe, the minutes were approved as corrected.

Bob presented the Financial Report. He said the balance sheet would be adjusted to reflect the fact that the bank bag has \$100, rather than \$4. Joe requested that the monthly report include a list of paid members, as it had in the past.

On a motion by Len, seconded by Terry, the financial Report was approved.

A draft of a letter soliciting membership renewals was discussed. Joe will make changes based on the suggestions and get copies (separate ones for individuals and businesses) to Bob so they can be sent out with invoices for next year in the next few days.

Bob pointed out that most Errors and Omissions policies exclude coverage for cyber crime. He expressed concern that our use of a cell phone to link to our payment processing application creates excess risk. Callie concurred and suggested that we either get a visa card processing machine from Banner Bank or purchase an iPad to enhance security. Len agreed to contact Banner Bank to get more information on our options.

The Board discussed programming for the next several programs.

The current schedule includes:

1. November 8 The Wonder of Foz
2. November 29 Terry will attempt to secure Steve Robinson to discuss the potential for a major earthquake.
3. December 6 The LWVLC will lead a discussion of redistricting reform
4. December 20 Senator Beyer and Representative Lively will preview the legislative session We will invite the winner of the district 11 race to attend.
5. January 3 Communications during major emergencies
6. January 17 Statewide revenue discussion
7. February 7 Springfield Library Project.
8. February 21 Recent court decisions on homelessness and bail for indigents.

Alternative back up topics discussed include the climate change lawsuit.

Len was asked to follow up with Rachael McDonald of KLCC concerning broadcast of Springfield city Club programs. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Len Goodwin,
Secretary

Recent Programs

(Continued from page 2)

Under federal court rulings districts must not be drawn to protect incumbents or favor political parties. That requirement is made explicit in statute in Oregon.

The current process has not worked well in Oregon. The last time the legislature succeeded in drawing district lines was in 2011, when the House of Representatives was evenly divided, and the Senate was unusually bipartisan. Before that, the last time the Legislature successfully completed a reapportionment was in 1911.

December 20 – Legislative Preview

Look for some form of a consumption tax to emerge out of the upcoming session of the Legislature. That was a highlight of the message from State Senator Lee Beyer as he, and Representative-elect Marty Wilde briefed Springfield City Club members on the prospects for the next session, which begins January 22.



Sen. Beyer made it clear – he was not talking about or supporting a retail sales tax. But he did give the sense that there is increased recognition that some form of a consumption tax is an essential “third leg on the stool” for Oregon. Educational funding will be a critical issue the legislature faces this session, and he believes that the Legislature cannot do more with less; some form of additional revenue will be needed.

Education was one of the six issues that he identified as being the focus of the session. Others included PERS, health care, paid family leave, housing and climate change.

Rep.- elect Wilde pointed to two issues within the health care debate he thought of particular concern. He noted that Oregon is sadly a leading source of diversion of opioids to illegal uses. He and Sen. Beyer agreed that the cost of health care is primarily an issue for the middle class; those who are poor can take advantage of the Oregon Health Plan and those who are wealthy have no issue affording their health care, but those in the middle are forced to use plans with high costs and high deductibles – plans they can not afford to pay for or to use.

The legislator recognized that dealing with climate change must be a collaboration between environmental interests and industry. Sen. Beyer said he expected some form of “cap and trade” legislation to be approved by the Legislature this session. The primary impact of that legislation is likely to be felt in fuel prices. While both legislators were supportive of efforts to encourage transition away from fossil fueled vehicle, Sen. Beyer noted that although there is movement toward electric vehicles in the rural areas, the challenges of geography were great.

While both legislators were clear about the need for additional funding for education, they noted that the problems are not simple to solve. For example, reductions in class size are generally favored, but the reality is that if class sizes are reduced, there are not enough classrooms in schools to accommodate the students.

One final question from the audience turned to the first program of the month – reapportionment. While both legislators said they could be supportive on an independent commission approach to reapportionment, Sen. Beyer cautioned that such an approach might not solve any problems. The issue, he said, is not intentional gerrymandering, but rather the difficulty of dealing with a geography that has extreme variations in population – which makes creating any set of equal sized districts a great challenge.



Public Meetings

(Continued from page 1)

January 28, 2019 – Work Session 5:30 p.m.
Legislative Priorities
HOME Funded Project

AGENDA

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

January 7, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.
State of the County

January 8, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.
January 15, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.
January 22, 2019 – No Meeting
January 29, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA

LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT

January 16, 2019 – Board meeting 5:30 p.m.

AGENDA

SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL BOARD

JANUARY 14, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.

BUSINESS MEETING

JANUARY 28, 2019 – 4:00 P.M.

Work Session

AGENDA

WILLAMALANE PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT

January 9, 2019 – Board meeting 6:30 p.m.

AGENDA

SPRINGFIELD UTILITY BOARD

January 9, 2019 – Board meeting 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Lane Regional Air Protection Authority

Upcoming Programs

(Continued from page 1)

will discuss problems and potential solutions.

FEBRUARY 7 – SPRINGFIELD LIBRARY

Early in 2019 the Springfield City Council will receive and update on the discussion about constructing a new library, separate from the current City Hall. Emily David, Springfield Library Director will review the proposal for City Club members.

FEBRUARY 21 – COMMUNICATING IN AN EMERGENCY

One thing that does not receive a lot of attention in the discussions about a Richter force 9 earthquake is how do citizens get informed and stay aware of rapidly changing conditions. A Panel of experts, lead by Lane County staff, will review how communications occur in the event of a major natural disaster.

City Club Board of Directors

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